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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS ACTING AS  
PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE  
FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION,  
SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION  
OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC  
SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

First informal open-ended inter-sessional meeting  
Vienna, 7-9 July 1997

OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Measures to counter illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of stimulants
3. Measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs
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### Annotations

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, to take place in June 1998, held its first session from 26 to 27 March 1997, during which it decided to hold informal open-ended inter-sessional meetings from 7 to 9 July and 7 to 9 October 1997 and on 5 December 1997.

At the first session of the Commission acting as preparatory body for the special session, it was agreed that the following issues would be considered during the preparatory process: reaffirmation of the political commitment of Governments to international drug control; demand reduction, in particular adoption of the draft declaration on the guiding principles of reduction of illicit demand for drugs and proposals for implementation; and (a) measures to counter illicit manufacture of, traffic in and abuse of stimulants, (b) measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs, (c) measures to promote judicial cooperation, (d) measures to counter money-laundering, and (e) eradication of illicit crops and alternative development.

The inter-sessional meetings will not be called upon to examine in detail the question of demand reduction in view of the fact that a separate timetable has been established by the Commission for work on the draft declaration on the guiding principles of reduction of illicit demand for drugs. The results will be available in a progress report to the third inter-sessional meeting in December, and will then be reported to the Commission acting at its second session as preparatory body for the special session.

#### *1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda*

The officers of the first inter-sessional meeting will be the same as for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting at its first session as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly on international drug control.

#### *2. Measures to counter illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of stimulants*

Alarmed by the rapid and widespread increase in the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, and mindful of the economic and social consequences thereof, an expert meeting organized by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was held at Shanghai, China, from 25 to 29 November 1996. During that meeting, the nature and extent of the problem were examined and a set of countermeasures to tackle the problem were suggested. In response to a mandate derived from Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/20, the countermeasures and a report reflecting the discussions of the expert meeting at Shanghai was presented to the Commission at its fortieth session (E/CN.7/1997/6).

After consideration of the report, the Commission approved draft resolution VI entitled "Implementation of comprehensive measures to counter the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors", to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

By that resolution, the Council would, *inter alia*, request the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to develop the recommendations of the expert meeting into an appropriate format for consideration by the Commission at its forty-first session, with a view to making recommendations for endorsement by the General Assembly at its special session. To that end, the first inter-sessional meeting could, in addition to considering the growing problem of stimulants and the proposed countermeasures emanating from the

expert meeting, guide UNDCP on the most appropriate format and level of detail of the countermeasures to tackle the problem, and recommend to the special session the adoption of those countermeasures.

#### *Documentation:*

Countermeasures against illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors (E/CN.7/1997/PC/CRP.3).

### *3. Measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs*

The first inter-sessional meeting could review the current status of implementation by Governments of the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 <sup>1/</sup> aimed at preventing the diversion of precursors, which have been supplemented by recommendations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant forums, including the Chemical Action Task Force established by the Heads of State or Government of the seven major industrialized countries (Group of Seven).

In draft resolution VI the Council would, *inter alia*, request Governments to verify the legitimacy of individual transactions involving precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants listed in Table I and, where possible, those listed in Table II of the 1988 Convention, and to take appropriate action to protect the legitimate interests of those industries cooperating in inquiries to certify the legitimacy of transactions involving precursors. Furthermore, the Council would request Governments of States exporting precursors listed in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention, prior to permitting shipments to proceed, to inquire with the authorities of importing States about the legitimacy of transactions of concern, to inform the Board of the action taken, and to take steps to initiate a cooperative, rapid and effective exchange of information concerning stopped or canceled shipments.

Previous Council resolutions relevant to the implementation by Governments of article 12 of the 1988 Convention (1996/29, 1995/20, 1993/40, 1992/29) have endorsed related recommendations proposed by the International Narcotics Control Board and meetings of other international bodies. Those resolutions have requested Governments to take a number of specific measures applicable to the monitoring and control of all substances listed in the Tables of the 1988 Convention.

The first inter-sessional meeting could therefore assist the special session in considering viable options for control, identifying the necessary priority actions at the international and national level, and exploring measures, in the form of recommendations, to strengthen controls over precursors, in order to prevent their diversion to illicit channels and to apprehend international traffickers of precursors through the use of techniques such as controlled delivery. Furthermore, it could consider the advisability of developing an import and export authorization system, as well as a system for the collection and sharing of information on the licit uses and movement of precursors.

#### *Documentation*

Options for control in preventing diversion of precursors and chemicals into the illicit manufacture of drugs (E/CN.7/1997/PC/CRP.4).

### *4. Other matters*

At the present time, no other matters requiring action at the first informal inter-sessional meeting have been brought to the attention of the Secretariat.

5. *Report on the outcome of proceedings*

Because of the informal nature of the meeting and the limited time available for deliberations, the Commission may wish to adopt a simplified reporting system by instructing the rapporteur to produce a final version after the meeting. The report will be before the Commission at its second session as preparatory body, to be held from 27 February to 5 March 1998.

*Notes*

11 *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988, vol.I, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).*